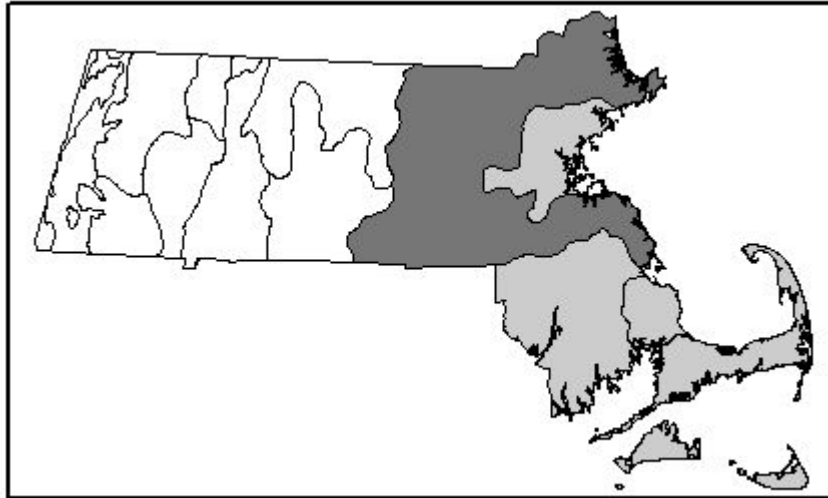


Community Name: MARITIME ROCK CLIFF COMMUNITY

Community Code: CT2A4B0000

SRANK: S2



Concept: Sparsely vegetated rock areas with plants in crack and ledges where soil collects, above tidal zone, but within salt spray.

Environmental Setting: Ocean side of rocky headlands, above rocky intertidal, but within the salt spray zone.

Vegetation Description: Low, scattered plants of salt and wind hardy plants such as knotted pearlwort (*Sagina nodosa* ssp. *nodosa*), saltworts (*Salicornia* spp.), common rush (*Juncus effusus*), seaside plantain (*Plantago maritima*), poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), and mosses. Species from the top of the headland, usually a Maritime Shrubland Community, occur in less exposed ledges.

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: Harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) use the rocks below the cliffs to haul out and rest. The exposed rock face itself does not provide habitat for specialized fauna.

Associated Rare Plants:

SAGINA NODOSA SSP NODOSA

KNOTTED PEARLWORT

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Associated Rare Animals:

NONE KNOWN

Examples with Public Access: Pigeon Cove, Rockport; Brier Neck, Gloucester; Egg Rock, Nahant.

Threats:

Management Needs:

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC:

MA (old name): Part of SNE Coastal Rocky Headland Community.

ME: 2001 – similar environment to Seaside Goldenrod – Goosetongue Open Headland. 1991 - Similar to part of: Open headland community.

NH: Part of coastal rocky headland.

VT: Not applicable.

NY: Not applicable.

CT:

RI:

Weatherbee: Not applicable.

Author: P. Swain

Date: 7/1/99